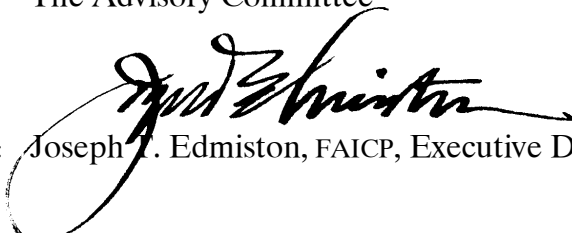


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: January 23, 2006

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 17: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Project Planning and Design Services.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds in the amount of \$400,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Project Planning and Design Services.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of Public Resources Code.

Background: The MRCA has submitted a grant application for Proposition 40 funds for project planning and design activities leading directly to the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration or protection of land and water resources. Potential projects that will be pursued with these funds are listed in the attached grant application. A start date of February 1, 2006 was requested for the grant.

Planning and design activities will include researching subject properties' natural resources and ownership, negotiations and preparation of purchase agreements, obtaining and reviewing appraisals, title reports, and environmental assessments, mapping and graphics to support acquisitions, and preparation of project plans and improvement plans to ensure adequate and safe public access. All activities will lead to the protection of the state's natural and historical resources and provide healthy natural ecosystems that can support both human communities and the state's native fish and wildlife.

All land acquisition projects will be with willing sellers, and may include both fee simple title purchases and easements. Land acquisition projects may include both fee simple title purchases and easements, and can be via direct purchase, donation, or dedication. All of the subject project planning and design activities would be consistent with Article 5, Land, Air, and Water Conservation, Section 5096.650(b) of Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 and in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.